



CHICOPEE CITY COUNCIL
PUBLIC SAFETY

APPROVED 7-14-15

MEMBERS PUBLIC SAFETY

Robert J. Zygarowski, Chairman
Frank Laflamme, Vice Chairman
Jerry Roy
Gary Labrie
John Vieau

MINUTES
June 22, 2015

The following are the minutes of a public hearing held Monday, June 22, 2015 at 6:00 P.M. in the City Council Chambers, Fourth Floor, City Hall Annex, 274 Front Street, Chicopee, MA 01013.

Members Present
Not Present

Zygarowski, Laflamme, Roy (At-Large), Labrie
Vieau

Also Present

Councilor Lamontagne, Captain Daniel Sullivan (Police Department),
Lieutenant Patrick Major (Police Department)

In compliance with the Open Meeting Law the Chairman asked if anyone in the audience was recording the meeting.

ITEM #1

FY 2015 Justice Assistance Grant Chicopee Police Department in the amount of \$21,801.

Captain Sullivan stated that the eligible allocation amount for the city is \$21,801 and is based on population and part 1 crime statistics. We determined there is a critical need to replace the equipment for our underwater response team. Some of the equipment is over thirteen years old and in desperate need of replacement.

Lieutenant Major stated he met with the experienced divers on the team and asked them what their concerns were and the top priority was the equipment that we have. The equipment that we have is approximately fifteen years old and not been serviced since we purchased it.

Councilor Laflamme asked how many certified divers are in the Police Department.

Lieutenant Major answered there are three on the team right now and three new ones will be trained.

Councilor Roy asked who trains the divers.

Lieutenant Major answered most of the time we'll do in house training with Officer Chris Galindo who's an experienced certified diver in the Coast Guard. We are also looking into other agencies for training such as the State Police or Environmental Police.

Councilor Roy asked how many search and rescue jobs on average are done.

Lieutenant Major answered the dive team on average does six search and rescues per year.

Lieutenant Major stated the equipment is being used twenty four hours and seven days a week and when we start talking about the specialized units you want that training and equipment that you need for when that critical time comes.

Captain Sullivan stated there are a number of purpose areas that this grant can cover and what we do is determine the most critical need. The divers operate under harsh conditions such as pitch black, freezing cold and fast moving water full of debris; sometimes under several inches of ice. I understand this equipment is expensive but for such harsh conditions it is needed to do it safely and effectively.

Councilor Lamontagne stated he knows there are limited resources out there but he would like to see resources allocated to more training maybe in the form of grants.

13 year old equipment

Councilor Laflamme motion to approve – Councilor Zygarowski 2nd the motion – motion passed.

Committee vote 4– 0 favorable.

ITEM #2

Minutes – June 10, 2015. Motion made to approve. Motion passed.

Meeting adjourned at 6:24 PM.